Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 EUR-12 SSO-00

INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 /062 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3012

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR EG

SUBJECT: TWA RESTRICTIONS

REF CAIRO 3179

- 1. TWA CAIRO MANAGER INFORMS US HE HAS RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS TO EFFECT THAT QUOTE TWA WILL IGNORE ANY RESTRICTIONS PENDING RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL UNQUOTE. MANAGER AGREES WITH US THAT GOE HAS CAPABILITY TO ENFORCE TRAFFIC LIMITATIONS; HIS FEELING IS THAT CLEARANCE FOR TAKEOFF WOULD SIMPLY BE WITHHELD UNTIL ANY PASSENGERS TICKETED IN VIOLATION OF RESTRICTIONS WERE REMOVED FROM AIRCRAFT. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR TWA TO IGNORE RESTRICTIONS.
- 2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT WHICH COULD BE OPEN TO EGYPTIAN MISINTERPRETATION IN POLICY TERMS AT THE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE STAGE IN US RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. EMBASSY THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT TWA CONSIDER FILING FORMAL LETTER PROTESTING IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS AND STATING THAT THEY ARE UNACCEPTABLE, THEREBY RESERVING THEIR POSITION, BUT TACITLY FOLLOW NEW RULING. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT A DIPLOMATIC NOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALONG SAME LINES BE SENT TO MFA AT SAME TIME, THEREBY

RAISING LEVEL OF CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER IN GOE, WHICH WOULD REGISTER OUR OBJECTIONS OFFICIALLY AND REQUEST PROPER CONSULTATIONS AS IS NORMAL PRACTICE IN SUCH CASES.

3. WHILE TWA MANAGER IS PROPOSING ABOVE COURSE OF ACTION TO HIS SUPERIORS, AND WE ASSUME THEY WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH DEPT TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPT TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND RECOMMEND PROCEDURE DESCRIBED PARA 2 ABOVE, IF IT AGREES. PLEASE ADVISE. EILTS

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